

In re Appln. of: John DAVIES
Appln. No.: 10/626,187
Attorney docket: 779-X03-002

Group Art Unit: 3743

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (new): A microphone adapter for a respirator having a speech projector and an exhale diaphragm, the adapter comprising a sound tube with a first open end designed to be located and held relative to the speech projector to receive speech therefrom at a point downstream of an exhale diaphragm and a second open end designed to be coupled with a microphone located outside and adjacent the respirator, whereby, in use, speech emanating from the speech projector is transmitted via the sound tube to the microphone.

Claim 16 (new): An adapter according to claim 15 including a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates, said box being arranged to fit over a microphone located outside and adjacent the respirator and shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

Claim 17 (new): An adaptor according to claim 15 wherein a microphone box receives the second open end of the sound tube, and the microphone box is adapted to be releasably pushed over a microphone.

Claim 18 (new): The combination comprising a respirator having a speech projector and a microphone adaptor including a sound tube with a first open end designed to be located and held relative to the speech projector to receive speech therefrom at a point downstream of an exhale diaphragm and a second open end designed to be coupled with a microphone located outside and adjacent the respirator,

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whereby, in use, speech emanating from the speech projector is transmitted via the sound tube to the microphone.

Claim 19 (new): A combination according to claim 18 wherein the respirator includes an exhale diaphragm that is located in a region substantially in front of the mouth of a wearer of the respirator, which diaphragm opens into the sound projector to leave a clear passage between the mouth of the wearer and the first open end of the sound tube when the wearer exhales during the speech process.

Claim 20 (new): A combination according to claim 19 wherein the respirator further includes an inner face seal internal of an outer layer of the respirator and wherein the exhale diaphragm extends through both the internal face seal and the outer layer.

Claim 21 (new): Battlefield communication equipment comprising:

(a) a headset to be worn by an operative, the headset having earphones, a boom microphone that lies adjacent the mouth of the operative and a connection for a radio enabling the operative to have two way communication;

(b) a respirator; and

(c) a microphone adaptor, the microphone adaptor having a sound tube having a first open end and a second open end, a microphone box mounted on the second open end arranged such that when the operative is wearing the respirator, the operative can fit the first open end of the sound tube to the respirator and can fit the microphone box at the other end of the microphone adaptor over the boom microphone of the headset, the adaptor being arranged to receive speech from within the respirator and transmit that speech via the sound tube and microphone box to the boom microphone.

Claim 22 (new): Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the respirator includes a speech projector and the microphone adaptor is arranged to receive speech from within the respirator via said speech projector.

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Claim 23(new): Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the respirator includes a speech projector and an exhale diaphragm and the microphone adaptor includes the sound tube with a first open end being designed to be located and held relative to the speech projector to receive speech therefrom at a point downstream of the exhale diaphragm.

Claim 24 (new): Battlefield communication equipment of claim 21 wherein the microphone box on the second open end of the sound tube fits over and shields the boom microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

Claim 25 (new): Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the microphone box is adapted to be releasably pushed over the boom microphone.

Claim 26 (new): Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the radio to which the boom microphone is connected is a digitally encrypted radio.

Claim 27 (new): A microphone adapter for a respirator having a speech projector comprising, a sound tube with a first open end designed to be mounted in the vicinity of the speech projector, and a second open end designed to be coupled with a microphone, whereby, in use, speech emanating from the speech projector is transmitted via the sound tube to the microphone.

Claim 28 (new): A microphone adapter according to claim 27 further including a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates, said microphone box being arranged to fit over a microphone and shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

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Claim 29 (new): A microphone adaptor according to claim 28 wherein the microphone box is designed and arranged to push releasably over the boom microphone, which is a boom microphone of a headset.

Claim 30 (new): A combination of a respirator having a speech projector and a microphone adaptor as claimed in claim 27.

Claim 31 (new): A combination according to claim 30 wherein the microphone adaptor further includes a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates, said microphone box being arranged to fit over a microphone and shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

Claim 32 (new): A combination according to claim 30 wherein the microphone adapter further includes a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates, said microphone box being arranged to fit over a microphone and shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

Claim 33 (new): A combination according to claim 30 wherein the respirator includes an exhale diaphragm that is located in a region substantially in front of the mouth of a wearer of the respirator, which diaphragm opens into the sound projector to leave a clear passage between the mouth of the wearer and the first open end of the sound tube when the wearer exhales during the speech process.

Claim 34 (new): A combination according to claim 30 wherein the respirator includes an inner face seal which prevents exhaled air from reaching windows formed in an outer layer of the respirator wherein the exhale diaphragm provides a route for exhaled air from the inner face seal and into the speech projector.

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Claim 35 (new): A microphone adapter according to claim 15 wherein a resilient sound tube locator is mounted on the first open end of the sound tube.

Claim 36 (new): A microphone adapter according to claim 35 wherein the sound tube locator is shaped so that when a boom microphone is located outside and adjacent the respirator, the second end of the sound tube lies at the same location.

Claim 37 (new): A microphone adapter according to claim 15 wherein the sound tube is U-shaped and composed of semi-rigid material.

Claim 38 (new): A microphone adapter according to claim 16 wherein the microphone box has an opening in one wall to enable a boom microphone to be slid into the microphone box, the second end of the sound tube is coupled with the interior of the microphone box, and the interior of the microphone box has a wall structure that channels sound from the second end of the sound tube to the boom microphone.

Claim 39 (new): A microphone adapter according to claim 38 wherein the sound tube is U-shaped and composed of semi-rigid material, and a resilient sound tube locator is mounted on the first open end of the sound tube shaped so that when a boom microphone is located outside and adjacent the respirator, the microphone box lies at the same location.